Restructuring of Armed Forces

1169. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country requires restructuring of Armed Forces in view of more than 50 years of military conflict in Kashmir, Ladakh, Akshi Chin, etc.;

(b) whether China and Pakistan have an edge over India in terms of long term strategies and in military intelligence and diplomacy; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure political non-interference in military affairs and morale of the army and other steps taken to establish a new model for Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) consisting of the Home Minister, the Raksha Mantri, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entierty and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The recommendations of the GoM have since been finalised after taking into account the Report of the Kargil Review Committee, the Reports submitted by the four Task Forces that had been set up by the GoM and other relevant inputs. Detailed recommendations for reforming the National Security system including Armed Forces have been made in the Report of the GoM, which has been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001. Economic, industrial and the scientific capability of any Nation determine its strategic and military strength. Government continuously monitors all factors impinging on the national security and takes appropriate decisions to safeguard it. Within the overall structure of the democratic system of Government and in accordance with the scheme of constitution, the Armed Forces enjoy a considerable degree of autonomy. All efforts are made by the Government to ensure that the Armed Forces maintain a very high morale.

Regional recruitment centres

†1170. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regional recruitment centres situated in different parts of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the total number of soldiers recruited throughout the country for all the three Forces every year;

(c) the number of soldiers recruited every year from various regional centres situated in Bihar;

(d) whether Government are aware of the corruption prevalent in various regional centres; and

(e) if so, the names of the regional recruitment centres against which complaints of corruption have been received so far and the action taken against guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Total number of recruitment centres of the three Services are as under:-

ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE
71	12	13

In addition, recruitment for Army is also done in 48 Regimental Centres.

The vacancies in three Services are based upon the wastage rate of the respective Services. It varies from year to year.

The recruitment from Navy and Air Force is not on State-wise basis but is on All India merit basis. However, in the case of Army, the recruitment is State-wise. The following recruitment was made from Bihar during the last three years:-

1997-1998	—	2,721
1998-1999	—	2,288
1999-2000	—	1,531

The Government has been receiving complaints of corruption in recruitment. The Complaints are investigated and personnel found delinquent are punished.

The position regarding complaints received and action taken is as under:—

ARMY :

	1998	1999	2000
(i) Total complaints received.	92	82	102
(ii) Cases where disciplinary action taken	5	4	5
(iii) Total number of officers awarded punishment and action taken	8	4	5

NAVY: So far, one case of corruption has been established at Naval Recruitment Centre, Mumbai. The person found guilty has been discharged from Naval Service.

AIR FORCE: No complaints have been received in the recent past.

Feasibility of LCA

1171. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Light Combat Aircraft production programme, 70 per cent indigenous parts are Indian and LCA Programme Director has assured that the aircraft would not become obsolete at the time of induction;

(b) whether Russia has offered to be a partner in India's LCA's serial production, if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what is the actual demand in the country of such aircraft indicating whether all that components needed for LCA are available at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Indigenous content of the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Technology Demonstrator (TD-1) is nearly 70% and it is likely to be higher during the production of aircraft. LCA would not be obsolete as it has been designed with the state-of-the-art technologies that would remain current during the induction and operational phase of LCA.

(b) There is no formal proposal for joint development of LCA with Russia.

(c) The estimated requirement for the Air Force is 200 LCA fighters and 20 LCA trainers. Requirements of Navy for LCA naval variant is under evaluation. Most of the components needed for LCA are available from indigenous or third country sources.

Milan accident

1172. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the demonstration of a short range surface to surface missile 'Milan' at Hyderabad on 4th January, 2001 fire broke out with a bang of explosion killing a supervisor and injuring several other persons; and